

ELECTION 2017

Survation
poll for GMB

CON 47%

LAB 30%

LD 7%

UKIP 4%

OTHERS 12%



BARNSTORMER Corbyn gives speech yesterday

Jezza ducks & dives on Brexit

JEREMY Corbyn yesterday failed seven times to confirm Brexit would happen under him. Asked again and again by the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg to say that "come hell or high water... we will be leaving the European Union", the Labour leader instead insisted that if his party won they would get a "good deal with Europe". Senior aides later said there was no question of Labour not respecting the referendum result. But Tory Brexit Secretary David Davis accused Mr Corbyn of "chaotic incoherence" in his approach. The botched TV interview overshadowed a barnstorming speech in Manchester to mark Labour's official campaign launch, where 1,000 people turned out to see Mr Corbyn introduced by former Corrie star Julie Hesmondhalgh. Mr Corbyn framed the election as a straight choice between Labour and the establishment. He told the hall: "Don't wake up on June 9 to see celebrations from tax cheats and crooked financiers... because the party they own, the Conservative Party, has won. We have four weeks to ruin their party [and] take our wealth back."

Tory energy cap won't stop rises

ENERGY bills could still rise despite the Tory pledge of a "cap" on prices, Theresa May was forced to admit yesterday. The PM confessed her new policy would not stop tariffs "going up year on year". Mrs May also came close to admitting she plans to hike national insurance payments. Unveiling her energy plan, Mrs May said: "We are talking about a cap on energy prices that will be set by an independent regulator. "That will be a reflection of the market and it will, crucially, be possible for that cap to move." When quizzed by factory workers in Leeds yesterday, she admitted: "I don't think any government can ever promise that no bill is going to go up year on year." She was also unable to rule out NICs rises. "I'm not going to make tax commitments we are not absolutely sure we can keep," Mrs May said.

Bercow backer



SAFE Bercow

JOHN Bercow is certain to keep his job as Commons Speaker after Theresa May hailed him an "energetic ambassador for Parliament". Her backing in an election leaflet means rebel Tories would not dare try to topple Bercow, 54, from the job.



ON LEASH Philip nods along to PM

“I get to decide when I take the bins out, not if I take them

PHILIP MAY ON HOME LIFE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER



May gets nod ...from hubby

THERESA May describes hubby Philip as her "rock" but he was more like a nodding dog last night as he joined her on her first TV appearance since calling the election.

The investment banker, married to the Prime Minister for nearly 37 years, made it clear who wears the trousers at home.

He said: "I get to decide when I take the bins out, not if I take the bins out." The PM then cut in: "There's boy jobs and girl jobs." And Philip confirmed: "I do the traditional boy jobs, by and large."

He nodded along dutifully to his wife's answers as she tackled a string of soft questions from One Show hosts Alex Jones and Matt Baker.

The mood remained light as Mr May revealed he had fallen in love "at first sight" and

revealed Mrs May told him she wanted to be PM soon after she had established herself in the Shadow Cabinet in 1999.

And on Brexit, the PM joked that we will not be leaving the Eurovision Song Contest. She added: "But I'm

tempted to say, in current circumstances, I'm not sure how many votes we'll get."

But while some BBC viewers may have enjoyed the show, the Mirror Chicken was not impressed.

Our plucky campaigner strutted around outside Broadcasting House as the

interview took place to remind Mrs May about her cowardly refusal to face her political rivals on TV for a proper debate.

Police had earlier approached him at the PM's campaign event in York, while she slipped in through the back door.



PROTEST Our chicken



COSY With One Show's Alex and Matt

BLOODY THERESA



FLUSHED OUT Fox shot after legal chase by hounds in 2005

BY BEN GLAZE, JACK BLANCHARD and KEIR MUDIE

THERESA May yesterday confessed she wants to bring back fox hunting - after the Mirror exposed a secret Tory plot to repeal the ban.

And the PM admitted she will hold a free vote for MPs if she wins the election. Speaking to our reporter in Leeds, she said: "I have always been in favour of fox hunting and we maintain our commitment to allow a free vote. It would allow Parliament the opportunity to take a decision on it." But Jeremy Corbyn blasted: "It's a warped sense of priorities when Theresa May thinks the return of

PM admits Mirror

fox hunting is something the majority of people would support."

He added: "I opposed it as a teenager and am proud to have voted against it in Parliament. I'll do everything I can to prevent the return of this so-called sport to Britain."

The Mirror yesterday told how hunt masters are "mobilising" support on behalf of Mrs May, believing a Tory landslide will give her the majority to repeal

BIG CHANCE Lord Mancroft sent email

is right and confesses she backs cruel fox hunting

the 2004 ban. David Cameron promised a vote on repealing it his 2010 and 2015 election manifestos but never delivered.

He didn't have a large enough majority in the Commons to be sure of success, as a small group of animal-loving Tory MPs are opposed to bringing back fox hunting.

But in a leaked email published in yesterday's Mirror, the Council of Hunting Associations said it believes the free vote can be won, and the Hunting Act repealed, if Mrs May wins by a landslide. CHA chairman and Tory peer Lord Mancroft wrote in the email: "A majority

of 50 or more would give us a real opportunity for repeal of the Hunting Act."

But some of the new Tory intake of MPs could also be anti fox hunting - meaning it is impossible to predict at this stage whether Mrs May's plan will succeed.

Animal rights campaigners praised the Mirror for exposing the plot and begged would-be MPs to make a stand.

League Against Cruel Sports chief Eduardo Goncalves said: "Many thanks to the Mirror for revealing details of this plot to bring back hunting."

Peel says election majority of 50 or more is enough to reverse ban

public, and 72% of Conservative voters, backed the ban on hunting with hounds.

Mr Goncalves added: "This smacks of a small minority with a cruel hobby wielding an inappropriately large influence over the people in charge. Are we really going to turn the clock back to a time when killing animals for fun was legal?"

And RSPCA chief David Bowles added: "Fox hunting is a barbaric and

brutal practice that has no place in civilised society."

Shadow Environment Secretary Sue Hayman promised Labour would fight lifting the ban. She added: "The Conservatives are using the issue to distract from a neglect and lack of vision for rural communities."

The League Against Cruel Sports today calls for a ban on grouse shooting, the hiking of maximum sentences for animal cruelty to five years, and for Britain to lead a global fight against big-game trophy hunts.

ben.glaze@mirror.co.uk



OUTFOXED Mirror broke story

GOOD CAMPAIGN DAY



Julie Hesmondhalgh

The Corrie star backs Jeremy Corbyn in tub-thumping speech, saying he will make Britain 'give a toss'

BAD CAMPAIGN DAY



Patrick McLoughlin

The Tory Party chairman delivers a warm-up speech that is even more dreary than Theresa May's.



TWEET OF THE DAY

@GClarkUK As far as I can tell, no guarantee that energy prices won't rise next year under Tory policy. Is that right? Asking for a friend. Former Labour leader Ed Miliband trolls Business Secretary Greg Clark over the Tory's supposed cap on energy bills.

STAT OF THE DAY

5p amount the Lib Dems say Brexit has added to a litre of petrol

STOP THE TORY LANDSLIDE



Key seat: **ILFORD NORTH**
Labour candidate: **WES STREETING**
Notional Majority: **589**

Education boost vow

LABOUR is promising an investment plan to end brutal Tory schools cuts, bring back student grants and offer free adult education for all. Jeremy Corbyn will pledge £4.8billion-a-year funding, £8billion to build schools and £13billion for upgrades.